



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/671,725	09/29/2003	Ayumu Murakami	02910.000091.	6720

5514 7590 08/03/2007
FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, NY 10112

EXAMINER

SARPONG, AKWASI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2609

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-----------	---------------

08/03/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/671,725

Applicant(s)

MURAKAMI, AYUMU

Examiner

Akwas M. Sarpong

Art Unit

2609

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09/29/2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09/29/2007 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date all 11/26/03

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because the drawings do not show any labels. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement-drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the examiner does not accept the changes, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2609

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masuda et al (US 6628431 B1) in view of Tsunoda (US 4862218) and in further in view of Tanaka (6053653).

Claim 1, Masuda discloses an image reading apparatus (Fig.1, Abstract, Line 1) comprising:

an original placement portion on which an original is to be placed (Column 1, Line 19, Fig. 18B Element 161).

optical means for optically scanning the original on the original placement portion while moving relative to the original placement portion. (Column 3, Lines 56 – 62, Fig. 23 Element 369, 361 and 373).

a guide member that guides movement of the optical means (Fig 4A, Elem. 12).

wherein said optical means includes a sliding member (Column 7, Lines 58-66, Fig. 4, Element 22b).

Masuda discloses using a spring portion as a contact member that slides in contact with the guide member (Fig 4A, Element 24).

Masuda does not discloses having a screw portion that slides in contact with the guide member and a screw hole portion to which the sliding member is mounted, the screw portion of the sliding member being plastically deformable and screwed into the screw hole portion while being plastically deformed.

Art Unit: 2609

Tasunoda discloses a conventional image reader with a screw portion (Fig. 12 Element 119) that slides in contact with the guide member and a screw hole portion (Fig. 12 Element 118) to which the sliding member is mounted.

Tasunoda does not disclose a screw portion of the sliding member being plastically deformable and screwed into the screw hole portion while being plastically deformed.

Tanaka discloses a screw portion of the sliding member being plastically deformable and screwed into the screw hole portion while being plastically deformed (Column 3 Lines 1-12). Therefore it will be obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Masuda's spring portion with a screw portion and a screw hole portion being plastically deformable, as taught by Tasundo and Tanaka, so to prevent movement during scanning process.

Claim 2, Masuda (Column 6 Lines 28-31 and Lines 41-53, Fig 4, Element 24) in view of Tanaka (Column 4 Lines 53-61) further discloses wherein play between the screw portion and the screw hole portion is substantially eliminated by plastic deformation of said screw portion.

Claim 3, " wherein said screw portion is provided with a plurality of plastically deformable portions that are arranged circumferentially," reads on Tsunoda's adjusting portion. (Fig 11, Element 111)

Claim 4, "wherein said screw portion is provided clear of a tip end portion of said sliding member" reads on that Tsunoda's screw (Fig.10, Element 119) and Tanaka's screw (Fig. 3 Element 35 Column 4 Lines 52-61) clearly shows the tip end portion.

Claim 5, Masuda (Column 6, Lines 22-29) in view of Tsunoda (Column 10, Lines 4-7 Fig.12 Element 119) further discloses wherein said sliding member has an engagement portion to which a rotating tool is to engage.

Claim 6, Masuda (Column 6, Lines 31-33) in view of Tsunoda discloses wherein said screw portion is made of a resin material.

Claim 7, Masuda (Column 6, Lines 31-33 and 59-64) discloses wherein a sliding portion and the screw portion of said sliding member are an integrally molded resin part.

Claim 8, Masuda (Column 2, Lines 51-59) in view of Tsunoda (Column 8, Lines 27-31, Fig 7 Elements 62a, 62b, 65a, 65b) further discloses wherein there are plurality of said sliding members that are provided at both end portions with respect to a direction orthogonal to a moving direction of the optical member respectively.

Claim 9, Masuda (Fig. 18B and 18C) in view of Tsunoda (Fig 11, Element 111b) "wherein said plastically deformable screw portion provided over such a length that enables adjustment of a position of the optical means by adjusting an engagement position of the screw portion and the screw hole portion" reads on Masuda's and Tsunoda's adjustment of the position of the optical means.

Art Unit: 2609

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Akwasi M. Sarpong whose telephone number is 571-270-3437. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, HAI Tran can be reached on 571-272-7305. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AMS:

JULY 17 2007


CHARLES BARBER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER